



INFORMATION

ON ECONOMIC, TRADE AND TARIFF INQUIRIES

ABOUT THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE TRIBUNAL

The Canadian International Trade Tribunal (the Tribunal) is an independent administrative tribunal operating within Canada's trade remedies system. It is a quasi-judicial body that reports to Parliament through the Minister of Finance. The *Introductory Guide on the Canadian International Trade Tribunal* provides an overview of the Tribunal and its statutory responsibilities.

One of the Tribunal's responsibilities is to act in an advisory capacity to the Government on economic, trade or tariff issues. The Governor in Council or the Minister can direct the Tribunal to conduct inquiries and make recommendations on matters requiring an independent and expert opinion based on a comprehensive review of facts, and sometimes competing economic interests. In such inquiries, the Tribunal conducts research, receives submissions, holds public hearings and submits a report to the Government.

LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND FOR ECONOMIC, TRADE AND TARIFF INQUIRIES

The *Canadian International Trade Tribunal Act* (the CITT Act) is the legislative authority for economic, trade and tariff inquiries. The Government may direct the Tribunal to inquire into any matter affecting Canada's economic, trade or commercial interests. The Minister may direct the Tribunal to inquire into tariff-related matters, including any matter relating to Canada's international rights or obligations. The Government may also direct the Tribunal to inquire into any matter relating to imports of goods or the provision of services by non-residents into Canada that cause or threaten to cause serious injury to domestic producers of competitive goods or injury to resident providers of services.

TRIBUNAL REPORTS ON ECONOMIC, TRADE AND TARIFF INQUIRIES

Since 1989, the Tribunal has conducted several inquiries into economic, trade and tariff matters. These have ranged from reviews of the competitiveness of key economic sectors to assessments and recommendations regarding trade and tariff measures which the Government was considering implementing.

Reports to the Government on Tribunal inquiries into the competitiveness of the Canadian horticultural as well as cattle and beef industries highlighted the performance, strengths and prospects of these industries. They provided the Government, the industry and the public with valuable insights into these industries, suggesting the direction in which they should be moving. The Tribunal also conducted an inquiry into the importation of boneless beef and recommended measures that were subsequently implemented by the Government.

In its trade and tariff inquiries, the Tribunal examined several planned measures in these areas and provided the Government with recommendations on how they should be implemented. These included inquiries on the allocation of import quotas for dairy and poultry products, reductions in MFN textile tariffs and the elimination of tariff anomalies in the *Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement*.

Another inquiry considered the impact of imports of dairy product blends (e.g., butteroil and sugar) outside the coverage of tariff rate quotas and the identification of options consistent with Canada's domestic and international rights and obligations to address any problems caused by these imports.

The Tribunal's reports following these inquiries, along with recommendations or options for action, were based on an exhaustive review of the key facts and the sometimes opposing views and interests of the various parties likely to be affected by the recommended measures.

